CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. In a computing environment, a method for implementing an association among a first data object and a second data object comprising the steps of:

forming a first association fragment which comprises information relevant to accessing the first data object; and

forming a second association fragment which comprises information relevant to accessing the second data object, wherein the first association fragment and second association fragment cooperate to cause an association to be effectively formed between the first data object and the second data object.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first association part and second associate part are maintained in the computing environment as data objects apart from, and in like manner as peers to, the first data object and the second data object.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the first data object and second data object are maintained by separate processes in the computing environment.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the first data object and second data object are maintained in separate data stores.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the first association fragment is maintained substantially in proximity to the first data object to facilitate the interaction therebetween, and wherein the second association fragment is maintained substantially in proximity to the second data object to facilitate the interaction therebetween.

6. In a computing environment, a method for implementing an association between a first data object and a second data object comprising the steps of:

forming a first association fragment which comprises information relevant to accessing the first data object; and

forming a second association fragment which comprises information relevant to accessing the second data object, wherein the first association fragment and second association fragment cooperate to cause an association to effectively be formed between the first data object and the second data object.